

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

100-HQ-410955-1



Serials 1-

100- HQ-410955

Sec. 1

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LE POWSKY, wa:
Frances Rice
SM-C. FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

DATE: 2/17/54

The captioned subject is presently under investigation by the NYC Board of Education, which is inquiring into the extent of her activities for and affiliations with the CP.

[redacted] of known reliability, advised on 2/9/54 that the subject was born on 12/15/08, NYC, resides at 250 W. 54th St., NYC, and is employed at Flushing High School, Flushing, LI, NY. [redacted] further related that she is married to one EDWARD LE POWSKY, who was formerly employed by the Board of Education but has been dismissed because he refused to answer questions concerning his alleged affiliation with the CP.

Concerning EDWARD LE POWSKY, it is pointed out to the Bureau that he is presently the subject of NY file 100-115527, and a Security-type investigation is presently being conducted in order to determine his sympathies and affiliations.

Bureau authority is requested to institute an investigation of FRANCES LE POWSKY in accordance with existing rules and regulations governing the investigation of individuals who are affiliated with institutions of learning.

1 - NY 100-115527 (EDWARD LE POWSKY)

ETW:CAS

SE 2

RECORDED
INDEXED

FEB 18 1954

EX-110

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-7-71 BY SP5 SCAR
426223

SAC, New York (100-115495)

March 5, 1954

Director, FBI

RECORDED-38

FRANCIS LE BOWSKY
SECURITY MATTER - C

EX-112

Reurlet dated February 17, 1954.

Before the Bureau will authorize investigation of this subject you should furnish the details of the present complaint together with a summary of information concerning her activities as are revealed from a check of your office indices. In the absence of such information the Bureau is not in a position to properly evaluate your request.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is reported to be the subject of an investigation by the New York Board of Education, which is inquiring into the extent of her activities for and affiliation with the CP. Her husband is the subject of a pending security type investigation in the New York Office. Subject does not appear to be identical with the subject of 101-2450 due to different birth date and married name of the two women.

OTM:aae

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
 Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMM - FBI

MAR 5 1954

MAILED 31

MAR 2 11 38 AM '54

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

FBI

RECEIVED - MAR 8 1954

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/1/94 BY SP5 JCP/m

60-MAR 10 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LE POWSKY, wa
SM-C

DATE: 4/28/54

Rebulet to NY, 3/5/54.

The referenced letter from the Bureau advised NY that before the Bureau would authorize an investigation of the captioned individual to be conducted, as was requested by NY letter, 2/17/54, NY would have to furnish to the Bureau the details of the complaint together with a summary of the information concerning her activities as revealed in the NYO indices.

[redacted] supplied background information on the captioned individual on 4/21/54. [redacted] further related that one FANNY LE POWSKY, 1463 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, signed a CPNP for SIMON GERSON in 1948. [redacted] continued that the subject was an active member of the Teachers Union, Local 555 as of September, 1949.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

The indices of the NYO were reviewed and the following information is set forth as contained therein:

100-59086-23 reflects that FRANCES LE POWSKY, 250 West 24th Street, directed a communication to Governor DEWEY requesting that the Governor pardon MORRIS U. SCHAPPES (NYU Professor who was convicted of perjury). The communication, addressed by FRANCES LE POWSKY to the Governor, was dated 1/24/44.

100-2936-1A-271, page 3, indicated that in the publication entitled, "The Voice of 500", published by the Lincoln Steffens Lodge number 500 and Morris Langer Club, IWO, NYC, greetings were sent by one FANNY LE POWSKY to this publication.

100-2936-1A-612 indicates that FRANCES LE POWSKY was a member of the IWO, Lodge number 500, as of December, 1946.

100-80945-850 - This is a complaint form indicating that the complainant believes that the subject is a member of the CP; and that he believed further that she travelled to Russia in the 1930's, and, further, that at a teachers' meeting during Easter vacation, 1949, subject took up a collection for "Red Front Organization".

Confidential informants of the NYO have been contacted, but were unable to furnish any information concerning the captioned individual.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-7-81 BY 585

RECORDED-20

ETW:MEG

COPIES DESTROYED

2 11 SEP 6 1963

INDEXED-29

29 APR 29 1954

INT. SEC.

Letter to Director
NY 100-115495

The subject is presently teaching at Flushing High School, Flushing, Long Island, NY, and is under investigation by the NYC Board of Education to determine the extent of her sympathies and affiliations with the CP.

In accordance with existing rules and regulations governing the investigation of individuals connected with institutions of learning, the Bureau is again requested to authorize an investigation of this individual.

RECORDED 48

100-410959-2

SAC, New York (100-115495)

May 11, 1954

Director, FBI

FRANCES LE POWSKY
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet dated April 28, 1954.

You are authorized to conduct an investigation of this subject in accordance with the provisions of Section 87C of the Manual of Instructions to determine if her inclusion in the Security Index is warranted.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is being investigated by New York Board of Education to determine extent of her activities for and affiliation with CP. Husband currently is subject of New York security investigation. Subject alleged to be CP member and to have taken collection for "Red Front Organizations" 1949.

OTM:hlf

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-4-99 BY SP5 JCP/PM
426,273

MAILED 16
MAY 11 1954
COMM - FBI

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Mohr _____
Trotter _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

MAY 11 11 00 AM '54

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED-WVIC ROOM

MAY 11 1954
RECEIVED-SECRETARY
MAY 11 1954
MAY 11 1954

20 MAY 25 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LEPOWSKY
SM - C

DATE: JUL 13 1954

G. I. R. -9

Enclosed herewith are five copies of report of SA EDWARD T. WALSH, JR., at NY, dated JUL 13 1954.

1. Subject is presently residing at 143-11 Barclay Ave., Flushing, NY. She is employed as a teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, Long Island, NY. She is of the white race.

2. She is married to ^{MRS} EDWARD LEPOWSKY, who resides with her and is employed by the Aloris Tool Co., 131-37 Sanford Ave., Flushing, Long Island, and he is of the white race.

3. Subject has been identified by an informant of unknown reliability as being a member of the CP while teaching at Flushing High School in 1949. She has been a member of the IWO Lodge #500 as of 1946 and petitioned Governor DEWEY in behalf of MORRIS U. SCHAPPES in January 1944. She has also been identified as being active in the Teachers Union of NYC.

4. Subject's spouse, EDWARD LEPOWSKY, has been identified by an informant of unknown reliability as being a member of the CP, while employed at Flushing High School. He has also been a member of IWO in 1947 and petitioned Governor DEWEY in behalf of MORRIS U. SCHAPPES in January 1944 and has been identified as a member of the Teachers Union, Local 555, NYC, 1949. NY

5. No information.

6. No information regarding defection, expulsion or present sympathies on the part of the subject.

7. In the event Bureau authority is granted to interview this individual, it is felt that she might be able to supply valuable information concerning CP infiltration into the NYC school system.

Bureau authority is requested to interview the subject in accordance with existing instructions relating to the interview of security subjects. If the subject is cooperative, no affirmative steps will be taken during the initial interview to direct her activities but a separate communication will be directed to the Bureau setting forth the results of the interview and requesting Bureau authority to recontact the subject as a potential security informant.

Encs. (5)

RM

ETW:TMF

APPROVED Not V.I.

Submit results in report

Date 7-20-54

RECORDED-62

INDEXED-62

8 JUL 14 1954

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8

ON 5-4-99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 107

42627

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE JUL 13 1954	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/17-19:4/8; 5/24-8/22-25/54	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD T. WALSH, JR. tmf
TITLE FRANCES LEPOWSKY			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

no
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject born 12/15/08 in NYC; married EDWARD LEPOWSKY 12/22/29 in Brooklyn, NY; employed NYC Board of Education 1931 to present time; resides 143-11 Barclay Ave., Flushing, NY. Subject has been identified by informant of unknown reliability as member of CP while teaching at Flushing High School, Petitioned Governor DEWEY on behalf of MORRIS SCHAPPE in 1944; member IWO Lodge #500, 1946; active member Teachers Union, 1949; believed to have travelled to Russia in 1930's with husband. Subject registered ALP 1941 through 1949.

- P -

DETAILS:

All informants utilized in this report are of known reliability unless otherwise indicated.

This investigation is predicated upon information received from T-3 who advised on July 29, 1949 that the subject was believed to be a Communist Party member.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Birth

T-1 related on February 19, 1954 that FRANCES LEPOWSKY nee FRANCES RICE, was born on December 15, 1908 in New York City.

COPIES DESTROYED
2 11 SEP 6 1963

*1cc - RAB
JB - [unclear]
11/12/54*
DECLASSIFIED BY *SPS 3- [unclear]*
ON *5-9-99*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *5-4-00* BY *SP-1 [unclear]*
47622

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (RM) 4 - New York (100-115495) (1 - 100-115527) COPY IN FILE		100-410959-3 JUL 14 1954 <i>[Stamps and signatures]</i>	RECORDED-62 INDEXED-62 EX - 107

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-59255-2

NY 100-115495

B. Education

T-1 advised that the subject attended Hunter College, New York City, from 1924 to 1928.

C. Marital Status

T-1 continued that the subject married EDWARD LEPOWSKY on December 22, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York.

D. Employment

According to T-1, subject was employed in 1931 by the New York City Board of Education.

T-2 stated on June 23, 1954 that the subject was still teaching at Flushing High School, Flushing, Long Island.

E. Residences

T-1 related that the subject has resided at the following addresses:

1929	220 East 18th Street, Brooklyn
1930	1081 Park Place, Brooklyn
1941-1947	250 West 24th Street, New York City
1947-1953	143-11 Barclay Avenue, Flushing

T-2 advised on June 23, 1954 that the subject continues to reside at 143-11 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, New York.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST
PARTY MOVEMENT

A. Communist Party Membership

T-3, of unknown reliability but who is in a position to know of subject's activity, advised on July 29, 1949 that he believed the subject to be a member of the Communist Party while teaching at Flushing High School in that she continually advocated the Communist Party line as stated in the "Daily Worker".

NY 100-115495

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper.

B. Communist Party Fronts

1. Morris U. Schappes Defense Committee

T-4 related on January 24, 1944 that FRANCES LEPOWSKY of 250 West 24th Street, had petitioned Governor DEWEY to pardon MORRIS U. SCHAPPES.

Concerning MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, it is noted that the records of the Clerk of the General Sessions Court, County of New York, disclose that MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, an instructor in English at the College of the City of New York, was dismissed on March 15, 1941, following an investigation of Communism in the Educational System of the State of New York by the Rapp-Coudert Joint Legislative Committee. At these hearings, SCHAPPES admitted that he had been a member of the Communist Party and active as such on the college campus from 1935 to 1940. He testified specifically that during the period of his activity there were but four members of the City College Unit of the Communist Party, whereas other witnesses offered testimony showing there were fifty members.

2. International Workers Order

T-5 advised on December 23, 1947 that FRANCES LEPOWSKY was born in 1908 and was a member of International Workers Order Lodge #500 as of December 1946.

The International Workers Order has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

3. United Public Workers of America -
Teachers Union, Local 555

T-3 related on July 29, 1949 that the subject was a member and active in the New York City Teachers Union, Local 555, while she was a teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, Long Island, New York.

NY 100-115495

JOHN LAUTNER, former national functionary of the Communist Party, USA, advised on January 6, 1954 that he knows the Teachers Union of New York City to have been under the control of the Communist Party since the middle 1930's. He knows the top two leaders of the Teachers Union, ABE LEDERMAN, President, and ROSE V. RUSSELL, Legislative Director, as having been devoted Communist Party members as of the time he left the Communist Party in January 1950. NY

"Teachers News" of May 22, 1954 reflects that LEDERMAN and RUSSELL continue in the above described positions with the Teachers Union.

The Rapp-Coudert Committee, a New York legislative committee which investigated subversive influences in New York State public schools in 1940-1942, reported in February 1942 that the Teachers Union of New York City was at that time commonly accepted and adequately proved to be controlled by Communists. The Committee also reported that the teachers who at that time still belonged to the Teachers Union could no longer be deemed ignorant of the true nature of the Teachers Union and they must be either Communists, willing tools of Communists or wilfully blind to the record.

4. American Labor Party

The records of the Board of Elections, New York City, New York, as reviewed by SE EDWARD C. UTZ on June 29, 1954 reflect that FRANCES LEPOWSKY registered in favor of the American Labor Party from 1941 through 1949.

Concerning the American Labor Party, the following information is contained in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., dated May 14, 1951:

"1. 'For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control.' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, p. 78.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-115495

"2. Among 'organizations that are victims of Communist domination.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, pp. 40 and 41.)"

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Travel to Russia

T-3 stated on July 29, 1949 that the subject and her husband, EDWARD LEPOWSKY, travelled to Russia in the early 1930's. T-3 was unable to supply any other information concerning them.

The records of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, as reviewed by SA AUGUST J. MICEK on February 19, 1954, did not reflect any information concerning the subject.

The following confidential informants of known reliability, who are familiar with some phases of Communist Party activity in the New York City area, were contacted but were unable to furnish any information concerning the subject: T-6, T-7, T-8 and T-9.

- P -

NY 100-115495

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGEINFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
T-1 [REDACTED]	Records of NYC Board of Education and subversive info	2/19/54, 9/17/53	SA EDWARD T. WALSH, JR.	Instant report
T-2 Pretext telephone call to subject's residence	Residence and employment verification	6/23/54	SA EDWARD T. WALSH, JR.	Instant report
T-3 RICHARD BERGERE, complainant, 143-28 41st Ave., Flushing (by request)	States subject CP member and member Teachers Union, Local 555	7/29/49	SA FRANCIS K. HANLON	100-80945-850
T-4 A high ranking official of the State of NY who made the information available to Albany office and was forwarded to NYO by letter dated 1/24/44.	Letter to Gov. DEWEY re pardon for MORRIS U. SCHAPPES in December 1943	1/24/44	SAC, NY	100-29086-22,23
T-5 [REDACTED]	Dues collection list for December 1946	12/23/47	SA EVERETT K. DEANE	100-2936-1A612

NY 100-115495

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONT'D.)INFORMANTS (CONT'D.)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Descrip- tion of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Fur- nished	File Number Where Located
T-6 [redacted]	Negative	3/19/54	SA RICHARD H. BLASSER	Instant report
T-7 [redacted]	Negative	3/19/54	SA ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON	Instant report
m-8 [redacted]	Negative	3/19/54	SA JOHN W. DOOLEY	Instant report
T-9 [redacted]	Negative	3/19/54	SA JOHN W. DOOLEY	Instant report

LEADNEW YORKAt New York, New York

Will await the Bureau's decision concerning the recommendation to interview subject.

Will obtain physical description of the subject upon interview.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

G. I. R. -1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-410959)

DATE: 10/19/54

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495) ✓

Card Filed

SUBJECT: FRANCES LEPOWSKY, wa
SM-C

11-19-54 put on 7813m (R 6-1 up end)

Enclosed herewith are 5 copies of the report of
SA EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr., dated 10/19/54, NY, and FD 122.The captioned individual was interviewed on 10/5/54 by
SAS ALDEN C. MC CRAY and EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr. at her home
143-11 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, Long Island.As soon as the agents had identified themselves to
Mrs. LEPOWSKY, she slammed the door to her apartment stating,
"I do not want to talk to the FBI, I have nothing to say." The
attempt to interview the captioned individual was thereupon
terminated.In view of the subject's uncooperative attitude with the
interviewing agents, and in view of the fact that she is presently
married to and living with EDWARD LEPOWSKY, who has been dismissed
from the NYC Board of Education for his failure to answer questions
concerning his membership and activities in behalf of the CP,
and in view of the fact that the subject and her husband have
belonged to other organizations which have been designated by the
Attorney General under Executive Order 10450, it is suggested that
the subject's name be included in the SI of the NYO, and accordingly,
FD 122 is submitted herewith.

Encs. 6

RECORDED - 7

INDEXED - 7

100-410959-4

11 OCT 21 1954

RM

ETW:JAD

2 DEC 1 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-410959)

DATE: 10/19/54

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LEPOWSKY, wa
SM-C

Card Filed

11-19-54 per letter
for OICX It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared
on the above-captioned individual.The Security Index Card on the captioned individual
should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)NAME FRANCES LEPOWSKY

RECEIVED

ALIASES Frances RiceNATIVE BORN X NATURALIZED ALIEN COMMUNIST X SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST
LEAGUE MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) TAB FOR DETCOM TAB FOR COMSAB RACE W SEX FDATE OF BIRTH 12/15/08 PLACE OF BIRTH NYCBUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address)
NYC Board of Education - teacher, Flushing HighSchool, Flushing, Long Island, NY

KEY FACILITY DATE:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER

RESPONSIBILITY CONTAINED

INTERESTED AGENCIES ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-4-94 BY SP-1RESIDENCE ADDRESS 143-11 Barclay Ave., Flushing, Long Island

ETW:JAD

52691.5

ENCLOSURE

100-410959-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 10/19/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/3; 9/22, 24, 29; 10/1, 5, 11, 13/54	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr. jad
TITLE <u>CHANGED</u> FRANCES LEPOWSKY, wa: Frances Rice			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject interviewed 10/5/54 and refused to talk to interviewing agents. *CR 9-1*

- P* -

DETAILS: The title of this case is being marked changed to include the name FRANCES RICE as reflected in the records of the Department of Health, New York City, which indicate the subject, FRANCES RICE, was born on December 15, 1908, in New York City.

On October 5, 1954, an attempt was made by SAS ALDEN C. MC CRAY and EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr. to interview FRANCES LEPOWSKY at her home, 143-11 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, Long Island.

As soon as the interviewing agents had identified themselves to Mrs. LEPOWSKY, she slammed the apartment door stating, "I do not want to talk to the FBI, I have nothing to say." The interview was thereupon terminated.

The following physical description of FRANCES LEPOWSKY was obtained by the interviewing agents from physical observation:

Name
Alias
Race

FRANCES LEPOWSKY
Frances Rice
White

AGENCY *CR 10/5*
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. *11-12-54*
HOW FORW. *P/C 6-6*
BY *JG/10/5*

COPIES DESTROYED
2 11 SEP 6 1963

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP5 SCN*
ON *6-4-75* *426273*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES ENCLOSURE <i>100-470957-4</i> <i>11 OCT 21 1954</i> <i>RECORDED - T</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: ⑤ - Bureau (100-10959) (RM) 3 - New York (100-115495) <i>446</i> <i>COPY IN FILE</i> <i>NOV 12 1954</i>		

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS REPORT IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI, AND NEITHER IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-115495

Sex	Female
Age	45 - Born December 15, 1908, Brooklyn, New York
Height	5'3"
Weight	140 lbs.
Hair	Grey-white, short bob
Complexion	Sallow
Build	Medium
Eyes	Brown

- P* -

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-115495

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will await the Bureau's decision regarding the recommendation contained in FD 122.

REFERENCE: Report of SA EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr.,
7/12/54, New York.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-410959)

DATE: 6-30-55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LEPOWSKY, wa
SM-C

Re SAC Letter #55-30, 4-12-55.

SUCCINCT RESUME OF CASE

Security Index card cancelled

1. RICHARD BERGERE, complainant, 143-28 41st. Avenue, Flushing, L.I., N.Y., who was in a position to know of subject's activity, advised on July 29, 1949 that he believed the subject to be a member of the Communist Party while teaching at Flushing High School in that she continually advocated the Communist Party line as stated in the "Daily Worker". (Admissable)(CP cited by AG.)

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper.

2. FRANCES LEPOWSKY, 250 West 24th Street, had petitioned Governor DEWEY to pardon MORRIS U. SCHAPPES. (A high ranking official of State of N.Y., 1-24-44).

MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, at hearings held by N.Y. State Educational System by the Rapp-Coudert Joint Legislative Committee, admitted that he had been a member of the CP and active as such on the college campus at CCNY from 1935 to 1940.

3. Subject reported on July 29, 1949 to have been a member and active in the New York City Teachers Union, Local 555 while she was a teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, L.I., N.Y. (RICHARD BERGERE, 143-28 41st Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. who was in a position to observe subject's activity in 1949 and who's reliability cannot be determined in view of limited contact with him.)

JOHN LAUTNER, former national functionary of the CP, USA, advised on January 6, 1954 that he knows the Teacher's Union of New York City to have been under the control of the Communist Party since the middle of 1930's.

4. Records of Board of Elections, New York City, New York on June 29, 1954 reflected FRANCES LEPOWSKY registered in favor of the American Labor Party from 1941 through 1949. (ALP cited by HCUA) (Admissable).

RECORDED - 49

EX-121

24 JUL 1 1955

CANCELLED

60 JUL 29 1955

JUL 13 1955
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-4-99 BY SP-5 JCR

Letter to Director
NY File 100-115495

5. Subject refused to talk to Bureau Agents on 10-5-54 when they attempted to interview her. (Admissable)(reliable).

RECOMMENDATION

Delete from SI.

*Agreed
NW*

Subject's activity does not meet criteria set forth in relet.

DETCOM TABBING

1. Not tabbed.
2. Not applicable.
3. Subject recommended for deletion from Security Index.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-410959)

DATE: 5/25/59

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-115495)

SUBJECT: FRANCES LEPOWSKY, AKA.
SECURITY MATTER - C

COMMUNIST INDEX

Re NY report of SA EDWARD THOMAS WALSH, Jr., 10/19/54
and NY letter to Director, 6/30/55.

This case was reopened in the NYO for investigation under the Communist Index program and it has been determined that subject is employed as a teacher with the New York Board of Education at Flushing High School, Flushing, NY.

Accordingly, it is requested that Bureau authority be granted to investigate and interview subject in accordance with existing regulations governing the investigations of individuals affiliated as faculty members with institutions of learning.

The following is noted regarding FRANCES LEPOWSKY:

1. Subject a white, female, born 12/15/08 at NYC, resides at 143-11 Barclay Ave., Flushing, Queens, NY and is employed as a teacher at the Flushing High School, Flushing, Queens, NY. There is no information available to indicate that she enjoys other than good health.
2. Subject is married to EDWARD LEPOWSKY of the white race, who resides with her at the aforementioned address and who was last known to be employed as a salesman for the Aloris Tool Co., 131-37 Sanford Ave., Flushing, Queens, NY.
3. An informant of unknown reliability reported in 1949 that subject was then a CP member and other sources have reported that in 1944 she petitioned Governor DEWEY in behalf of MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, that in 1946 she was a member of IWO lodge 500 and that in 1949 she was a member of Local 555, of the NYC Teachers Union.

2 - Bureau (100-410959) (RM)
1 - New York (100-115495)

JHC:jhc
(3)

REC-23

100-410959-6

MAY 6 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-4-96 BY 96 SCW/EX-111
426273

SUB CONTROL

4. Information concerning subject's spouse, EDWARD LEPOWSKY, is substantially the same as that reported concerning the subject, with the exception that in November, 1953, he resigned from his position as a teacher with the New York City Board of Education rather than appear before a hearing board of that organization to answer questions regarding his alleged CP affiliation. EDWARD LEPOWSKY was uncooperative when approached for interview by Bureau agents on 1/5/55 and 8/29/56.
5. No information available.
6. No information available.
7. Although FRANCES LEPOWSKY was uncooperative when approached for interview by Bureau agents on 10/5/54, it is believed that her present sympathies might best be determined through an interview at this time. If granted, this interview will be conducted in accordance with existing instructions relating to the interview of security subjects.

In the event subject is cooperative, no affirmative steps will be taken to direct her activities but a complete background investigation required by section 107c of the Manual of Instructions will be conducted and the Bureau will be requested to authorize recontact of the subject as a PSI.

1 - Mr. Haack
1 - Mr. Kitchens

SAC, New York (100-115495)
EX 109 REC-77
Director, FBI (100-410959) - 6

May 15, 1959

FRANCES LEPOWSKY
SECURITY MATTER - C

7/17 to NY
0-1
re 3.
TWK: mmr [initials]

Reurlet 5-4-59.

Authority is granted to investigate Lepowsky in accordance with existing Bureau instructions relating to investigations of individuals connected with institutions of learning. However, authority is not being given at this time to interview Lepowsky. Complete your investigation and submit report. If at that time you consider the subject's interview advisable, resubmit your request for authority.

NOTE: SUBJECT removed from SI, 7-8-55. Case reopened under Communist Index Program. Lepowsky is teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, New York. White, married, native-born citizen. Reported to be CP member in 1949. Petitioned Governor Dewey concerning Morris U. Schapps, 1944. Member IWO Lodge, 1946; member New York City Teachers Union, 1949.

0-1 M-7
7/22/59
Rept. will
be subm.
1/25/59.
90

IDH:1mk
(5)

MAILED 30
MAY 15 1959
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-77 BY SP5 JCP
426,723

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

53 MAY 20 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAY 14 3 51 PM '59

FBI - JUSTICE
REC'D BELMONT

MAY 18 3 14 PM '59

RECEIVED COMB
REC'D - FBI

JFB
MAY 18 1959

[Handwritten signature]

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6/7/28

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 7/21/59	Investigative Period 5/18/59 - 7/9/59
TITLE OF CASE FRANCES LEPOWSKY, aka.		Report made by SA JOHN H. CAMPBELL	Typed By: pjh
		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C (Communist Index)	

REFERENCE

NYlet 5/4/59 and Bulet 5/15/59.

- C -

*0.12 to NY to change title
of memo to agree with
report. 7/31/59 MET*

INFORMANTS

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NY T-1 is

Used to document EDWARD
LEPOWSKY.

Careful consideration has been given to the source
concealed and T symbol was utilized only in that instance
where the identity of the source must be concealed.

Certain Informants who were contacted in March,
1959, are identified as follows:

Approved Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: ④ - Bureau (100-410959) (RM) 3 - New York (100-115495)	100-410959-7	REC-94
	25 JUL 24 1959	
CLASSIFIED BY 586 JCP DECLASSIFY ON 25X	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE	

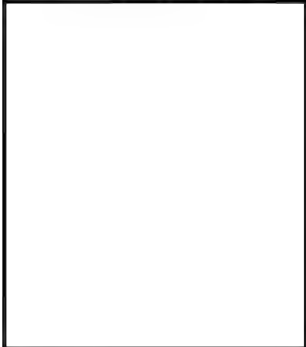
~~SECRET~~

This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither the report nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-344750

~~SECRET~~


NY 100-115495

<u>Informant</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>	<u>Agent</u>
	3/18/59	T. M. WOOD
	3/19/59	T. M. WOOD
	3/19/59	JAMES HALLERON
	3/19/59	JAMES HALLERON
	3/19/59	JAMES HALLERON
	3/19/59	LERO LEROY SHEETS
	3/23/59	LEROY SHEETS
	3/20/59	DAVID RYAN
	3/20/59	DAVID RYAN
	3/30/59	ROBERT TAYLOR

ADMINISTRATIVE

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

The The pretext telephone calls of 4/17/59 and 7/9/59 were both conducted by SA JOHN H. CAMPBELL, who represented himself as a telephone repairman in the first instance, and as a person conducting a consumer survey in the latter call.

This report is classified ~~confidential~~ due to the utilization of information from  a highly confidential source, who has in the past furnished information regarding CP Activities within the New York City Board of Education. Should the identity of this source be disclosed, it would seriously impair the investigation of Communist Party Activities in the New York City area and thereby be injurious to the Internal Security of the United States.

In view of subject's employment as a teacher with the New York City Board of Education, ~~and because~~ there has been no significant evidence of her activity with Communist Organizations since her alleged CP membership in 1949, it is believed that an interview of LEPOWSKY would not be

COVER PAGE

- A -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

NY 100-115495

desirable or productive at this time. It is noted that when approached for interview by Bureau Agents on 10/5/54 she declined to discuss any of her activities.

Accordingly, no further consideration is being given to interview LEPOWSKY at this time.

There has been no evidence developed which warrants subject's consideration for the Security Index, however, she is being retained on the revised Communist Index of the New York Office.

COVER PAGE

- B -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOHN H. CAMPBELL

Office: New York

Date: 50 2 1959

File Number: New York 100-115495

Bureau File 100-410959

Title: FRANCES LEPOWSKY

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis:

LEPOWSKY resides 143-11 Barclay Avenue Apt. G4, Flushing, Queens, NY and is employed as a teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, Queens, NY. Subject and husband issued passport on 6/22/36 for proposed travel to Europe and the USSR.

- C -

DETAILSI BACKGROUND5-4-99
DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 SCW
ON 5-4-99 4 26 213Residence and Employment

The records of the NYC Board of Education, Division

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

16-74025-1 GPO

NY 100-115495

of Teachers' Records, 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York, has made available by FRANCES FISCHER to SA DONALD P. ADAMS on March 523, 1959, reflected FRANCES LEPOWSKY of 143-11 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, Queens, New York was then employed as a teacher at Flushing High School at Flushing, Queens, New York.

By means of appropriate pretext telephone calls to Flushing 9-5138, listed to EDWARD LEPOWSKY of 143-11 Barclay Avenue, Apartment G 4, Flushing, Queens, New York, it was determined by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 17, 1959 and July 9, 1959 that FRANCES LEPOWSKY continues to reside at this address and that she is employed as a school teacher at Flushing High School, Flushing, Queens, New York.

FOREIGN Travel

The files of the Passport Office, Department of State as reviewed by SA CARL L. BENNETT on May 27, 1959, disclosed that EDWARD LEPOWSKY of 253 West 16th Street, New York City filed an application for passport on June 13, 1936 at New York, New York. This application included LEPOWSKY's wife, FRANCES LEPOWSKY.

These records further reflected that the LEPOWSKYS were issued passport number 316319 on June 22, 1936, for a proposed travel of 3 months duration to England, France, the USSR, Austria, Poland, Finland, and Sweden. The travel plans indicated that the LEPOWSKYS intended to depart from the port of New York on July 2, 1936 and travel on board the "SS Berengaria." The purpose of this trip was stated to be "Sightseeing."

It is noted that on February 19, 1954, New York made available information that EDWARD LEPOWSKY was a member of the Communist Party (CP) while teaching at the Bronx High School of Science, New York City. This informant further advised that EDWARD LEPOWSKY was employed as a teacher by

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-115495

the New York City Board of Education from December, 1928 to November 2, 1953 at which time he resigned rather than answer any questions put to him by that board concerning his membership and activities in behalf of the Communist Party.

The CP is an organization designated by the attorney general of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

II MISCELLANEOUS

Certain New York Informants, who are familiar with various phases of Communist activity in the New York City area were contacted in March, 1959. However, all stated that subject was unknown to them and that they could furnish no information regarding any of her activities.

The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and the Bureau of Special Services, both of the New York City Police Department, as reviewed by SA AUGUST J. MICEK in March, 1959, contained no information identifiable with FRANCES LEPOWSKY.

- P -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -



**United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

New York, New York

NY 100-115495

July 21, 1959

Re: Frances Lepowsky, ~~also~~
~~known as: Frances Rice,~~
~~Mrs. Edward Lepowsky~~

Security Matter - C

New York T-1, in the report of Special Agent John H. Campbell, dated and captioned as above, should be characterized as having furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44